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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1838.

THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED.

Winter is coming:—the long files of wild geese on their way to the 'sunny south,' long since foretold its approach; and the fleecy flakes have already heralded its advent. Ready, or unready, it will soon be upon us; and much of our prosperity as farmers, and our comfort as individuals, is depending on the preparation we are making, or have made, to meet it. The man has little pretension to the character of a good farmer, who has not already made ample provision for his flocks and his herds; and prepared indoor and out, for the wants and comforts of his family; such will not be offended if reminded of things by them already anticipated, while the heedless and the negligent need continual prompting to keep up with the months.

It should be remembered that an animal in high order the first of December is already half wintered. The quantity of food required to keep such an animal in good heart through the winter, and bring him out smart and active in the spring, is much less than when he is poor in the fall, and the danger of loss is reduced to the lowest possible rate. See then that your stock is in good condition.

It should be remembered that an animal provided with a good warm stable or bed, will, to winter equally well, require only three-fourths of the food necessary for one that runs at large and is exposed to the severity of the weather. Never undertake to fat an animal, without first making it comfortable. Much is annually lost by neglecting this precaution.

It should be remembered that where grain is fed to stock, cooking it will cause it to afford at least one-fourth more nourishment than if given raw. Grinding aids its nutritive effect materially; but cooking, as by steaming, still more. Thus it has been found by actual experiment, that half a bushel of corn, ground into meal and made into pudding, is equal in effect to three pecks, fed to swine in the usual way, a saving of no small moment where large numbers of hogs are fed. In feeding potatoes, the saving by steaming or boiling is equal to one half. Cobs and cornstalks, made fine and steamed, will keep a horse or cow in better condition than the best hay; and these things are usually wasted.

It should be remembered that it is miserable policy to burn green wood; yet how many there are who rarely use any other. Did you ever calculate the quantity of dry wood it takes to drive off in steam the water from a green oak or beech stick?—if you have, you can estimate the direct loss there is in the use of unseasoned wood. Add to this the vexations consequent on loss of time, temper, and comfort, and you will hesitate before you conclude to pass the winter by drawing and burning one green stick at a time. Wood cut in October will not season as well as if cut in the early part of the year; but the winds will carry off some of the moisture, and the wood will be much better than if direct from the forest or stump. No wood, however, should lie long after being cut into fire wood, without being placed under cover.

It should be remembered that the winter is the farmer's time to store his mind with useful knowledge; and his books and papers should be provided accordingly. In the winter, if he has calculated his affairs aright, the farmer is prepared to enjoy himself, and the society of his friends; to study books relating to his business, or those on subjects of general interest; and to attend to the education and welfare of his children. No farmer should be without a shelf of well selected books, among which should be found some of the best works on agriculture, such as the manuals of Chaptal or Davy; and no farmer who values his profession, or wishes to conduct his operations understandingly and profitably, will fail of having at command, one or more of the agricultural periodicals of the country.

It should be remembered that ergot will produce disease in animals, and he who, *knowing* this fact, undertakes to winter his cattle on this substance, or on hay that contains it in large quantities, must expect little sympathy, if he finds his stock of cattle sadly decreased in the spring by the hoof-ail.

It should be remembered that all animals require shelter, and none perhaps more so than sheep; yet the barbarous and irrational custom prevails of giving them the 'cold side of the barn,' and allowing them to endure the severest storms without protection of any kind. Is it wonderful then that multitudes of these valuable animals perish yearly; or that farmers pay dearly for their inattention in this respect?

It should be remembered, that care, prudence and economy, are necessary to success in life in any department, and in none more so than in that of the farmer. Riches are of no value, any farther than they furnish the means of benefitting ourselves and others. The greater part of the men who have attained competence and wealth in this country have done it by their own unaided exertions; and the men who have made themselves the most distinguished in the annals of our country, have come up from the ranks of the people, supported only by their industry, integrity and talents. A farmer has no right to be ignorant, he has no right to be idle;—industry and intelligence take a bond of fate, and ensure success. The favors of fortune are open to all; but no matter of what nature they may be, they can only be won by intelligent and well directed toil.

HALF AN HOUR BEHIND THE TIME.

We have sometimes wondered whether the astrologers, soothsayers and magicians of olden time, had any name for the star that presides over the destinies of men, born half an hour behind the time. That there is such a star cannot be doubted, and numerous are the mortals that feel its influence. Among all classes of men, lawyers, doctors, and divines; the merchant, manufacturer, mechanic and farmer, are individuals of this unlucky description; and wo be to us, that we are compelled to say it, even the best and fairest part of God's creation, the women, have a large delegation in this congregation of lingerers. These unfortunate persons pass life in a fruitless endeavor to overtake time, forgetting that the old gentleman can only be seized by his forelock, while all behind is as smooth the bump of benevolence in a miser.

There can be no mistaking of the men who are born under this planetary aspect, or half an hour behind the time. Every thing they do, or have any thing to do with, bears the impress of this unfortunate decree of fate. But it is with the farmer alone we have now to do, and to him we intend to confine our limning. The farmer then who is born half an hour behind the time, may at once be known by the appearance and management of his farm and his general success, or rather want of it, through life. In all his domestic arrangements, he is forever this 'petty space of time' too late. His clock is half an hour slower than his neighbors, and by it his movements are guided. His children are half an hour too late at school, or at church; his voice and his vote are frequently lost on occasions of consequence, as he is half an hour behind the 'taking of the question;' and his laborers lose half an hour, by dinners not being on the table at the ringing of the town bell.

On his farm he always has unruly cattle, because, though fully intending to keep his fences all right, he is just half an hour too late in putting on a rail that had blown off, and his whole stock of cattle, led by an unruly ox (made so by going half an hour too long without being fed) make themselves at home in his wheat or corn field, half an hour before they are discovered. In getting in his crops this unlucky thirty minutes raises the dust with him, and sometimes keeps his wheat or his corn out of the ground for a fortnight. He has lost many a stack of hay or grain, because he would put off the topping out, or finishing, for half an hour. When in harvest he is shown that it is going to rain, his repiy is, poh! and, who ever knew it to rain under half an hour.

Wife, says the man of destiny, for such men do sometimes get wives, though they are rarely married till the 'next day after the affair,'—"Wife, I think I will go down and buy that cow neighbor Ball offered us yesterday. He has made two hundred and fifty pounds of butter from her the past year, but he is going to the west and will take 30 dollars for her." "Do, my dear, and you had better go now; for there are hundreds who will be glad to buy her." "Not now, but I will see her in half an hour." He did so, and the valuable cow at that moment was driven off by a man that only ten minutes before had heard she was for sale.

In disposing of farm produce, he not unfrequently misses of the best price by being behind the time in getting his grain or other matters to market; and owing to the unfortunate fact of being born half an hour too late, his losses in the course of the year amount to a sum by no means inconsiderable, and which he can ill spare. But at no season is his unlucky planetary influence more conspicuous than in its effects during the winter. He intends to have a supply of good dry wood for winter use, but he was half an hour too late in securing his crops in the fall to permit this. He intended to have cleaned his stove and chimney flues, but the cold weather came half an hour too soon, they take fire in consequence, and his house is with difficulty saved from the conflagration. He freezes through the winter, and smokes through the summer, because he was too late by half an hour in engaging a competent person to superintend the completion of his fireplaces.

In fact, the man who is born half an hour after the time, from spring to autumn, and from autumn till spring, is engaged in fruitless attempts to elude or conquer his run of bad luck. But the man or woman so afflicted should be told that ordinary efforts in this case do no good; at the common pace they can never overtake time; one vigorous effort, one determined bound over old habits, prejudices, and feelings, will alone overcome all the obstacles that prevent time from being taken by the forelock. It is the determined will that masters fate. That person deserves little sympathy from the world, whatever losses or troubles he may encounter, who brings them upon himself by jogging on through existence, half an hour behind the time. Live or die, a man should in all his actions or doings, be prompt, punctual, and decisive. Life is made up of half hours, and he who does not use them while he has them, or uses them to no good purpose, will find when at last he is 'brought to the scratch,' that half an hour is of immense consequence, either for good or for evil.

RUST ON WHEAT.

In the Edinburgh Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, is a valuable article on the diseases of wheat called rust or mildew, in which we find the following passage:

"The dust-like substances of the rust originates beneath the outer bark or epidermis of the plant, which it raises and renders thin, and at length cracks and bursts through. When examined by the microscope it presents a congeries of egg-oblong bodies, some of which have projections almost like tadpoles, or powheads, though they are not animated."

During the present season we have frequently examined the wheat plant with particular reference to this subject, aided by one of Raspail's best microscopes, and can safely say that each of the facts stated in the above paragraph.

are fully borne out by observation. The gradual raising of the thin transparent skin of the wheat stalk or leaf, the cracking of the epidermis and protrusion and growth of the fungus, and the formation of the tadpole looking clusters can be clearly traced till it is hardened and blackened in the air, presenting the appearance usually called rust or mildew. The red coloring matter, seems to be the sporules or seed of the fungi, which in some cases, as in that of the common puff-ball, are so extremely minute as to resemble speoke. The rapidity of the growth of this fungus excrescence, and immense quantity of seed produced, will account for the sudden attack and spread of this disease among wheat.

Two theories have been adopted by European writers to account for its germination on or in the wheat stalk or leaf;—one of which supposes the sporules fall on the earth, and are taken up by the roots of the plants through the sap, and thus vegetate in the plant itself; the other supposes the sporules or seeds to be scattered by the winds, and that whenever this seminal dust attaches itself and finds a proper place for propagation, it at once germinates and produces the effect we see.

Our observation has convinced us that the last is the method in which this fungus is propagated; though there seems to be no absolute impossibility in the first method proposed. A slight discoloration of the leaf or stem was the first trace of the disorder visible, white and rather filamentous. Soon the lifting of the skin began to appear; then the tearing and cracking of that covering, and finally the appearance and ripening of the fungi, and the speedy dissemination of the sporules. These might be rubbed, or washed, or blown off, leaving the fungous mass, as described in the Quarrerly. Every one acquainted with the clearing of new lands, must have seen the second year from the cutting of the trees, multitudes of a dark colored fungus with a slender stem, and egg shaped head, from half an inch to an inch in length, protruding from the top of the stumps, and attached to the last formed layer of bark or wood, it is rather difficult to determine which. Such, except that it is infinitely more minute, is the microscopic appearance of the wheat fungus.

The opinion that the sporules are deposited on the leaf and stem, and take root through the pores of the epidermis, is made still more probable from the kind of weather in which this disease is propagated with the greatest rapidity. Damp, sultry days, in which the leaf or stem is moist and of course the sporules enabled to adhere, with a degree of warmth that causes their almost instantaneous vegotation, is the weather found by experience to be most injurious to wheat. Honey dews were formerly deemed the cause of rust or mildew, but they only contributed to its spread, by causing the sporules that fell on the moistened leaf to more certainly adhere and vegetate. That the mildew or rust which is annually fatal to so much wheat, is a fungus, can no longer admit of a doubt; whether it is caused by the admission of the sporules through the sap from the roots; by the sporules finding the means of germination in the natural pores of the vegetable as we suppose; or, as some contend, by a depravation and degradation of the original juices of the plant, by which the aliment, which should form the wheat, is converted into this fungous matter, time and further observation can perhaps alone determine.

AGRICULTURE IN EGYPT.

We gave in the 43d number of the Farmer, from the second of Mr. Buckingham's lectures at Washington, as reported for the New York Observer, an interesting account of the agriculture of Modern Egypt, exhibiting the astonishing fertility of the Valley of the Nile, formed as the whole soil is by the deposites from that river, and annually watered by its floods. Owing to the peculiar nature of the climate, Egypt enjoys advantages for the production of grain, possessed, it is believed, by no other country on earth. The alluvial deposit on the Mississippi river, is far greater in quantity and extent than that of the Nile, but other circumstances prevent its being made so available in contributing to the food of man.

In whatever fell under the personal observation of Mr. B. we consider his authority as of the first and highest kind; his habits, and his long acquaintance with the east, having eminently qualified him for an observer of men and things. Where, however, he has been partially compelled to rely on the representations of others, we think some inaccuracies may be elicited,—a thing surely not to be wondered at, or calculated to detract from his general merits. Thus his argument to prove that it never rains in Egypt is extended so as to cover the same belt as far as Timbuctoo; and the evidence of an Arab chief is adduced to prove that rain is unknown there. That it rains at Timbuctoo is evident from the Narrative of Adams of Caillie, and others, who have visited that place; and is further rendered probable by the researches of Mungo Park, and Denham and Clapperton. Every one remembers the sufferings of the former, when carried captive to the borders of the desert, for want of water, and the joy with which he hailed its fall in his flight from the inhuman Moors. This was in about the latitude of Timbuctoo, but some three or four hundred miles to the *west*.—Major Denham found the waters of the inland sea of Tchad to rise and fall with the annual rains, and heavy rains were found to fall in that vicinity, which is about the same distance to the *east* of Timbuctoo. The barrenness of the Sahara is not owing to the want of rain, though, as in many other places, both in the eastern and western continent, there is none except for about three months in the year, but because the proportion of sand is so much greater than the other earths, or rather because in the greater part of that desert no other material is to be found. Sand has so little capacity for retaining moisture, that where it is of great depth, as in the Sahara, no vegetation can exist except for a very short period, and not even then unless there is admixture of other earths.

Rain is doubtless very rare in Egypt, and so is it on the coast of the Pacific in Peru; but in both places, where the sand does not preponderate so much as to forbid all vegetation, it is very luxuriant; the want of rain being amply compensated by the dews that fall in such quantities as to saturate whatever is exposed to their influence. The effect of high mountains in attracting and condensing vapor is strikingly illustrated by the Andes in Peru. At a few leagues from their base, in the level country between them and the ocean, it rarely rains, while showers are daily falling on the summits and upper slope of the mountains. The same result is observed to the north of the Sahara in the vicinity and upon the Atlas ranges. The probability is that either the Arab chief did not understand Mr. B.'s word for rain, or that he intended to mystify and hoax him.

FARMING IN KENUCKY.

Nowhere does the operations of agriculture, especially the department of breeding cattle and horses, proceed with greater spirit, or more success, than in Kentucky. Blessed with one of the most fertile soils in the Union, Kentucky raises comparatively little grain, except what is required for domestic consumption; but the attention of her farmers is turned almost wholly to the propagation of fine animals of the improved breeds—cattle, horses, mules and swine; and in these they are excelled by none. That excellent journal, the Franklin Farmer, for some weeks has been almost filled with reports of the meetings of the fairs and associations of the several counties; and the amount distributed in premiums, while it speaks highly in favor of the liberality and enterprise of the Kentucky farmers, reads those of the north a severe rebuke for their backwardness, and dread of expense in such matters. No valuable improvement can be made without effort and cost, and it is idle to suppose that agricultural associations will grow up and flourish in New York without these, any more than in Massachusetts or Kentucky, where they are producing the best effects. We imagine, however, that the Short Horn fever in the west, like the Mulberry fever in the east, must be near reaching its crisis. Valuable animals for breeding will always command a good price, but that they can long command the present exorbitant rates is clearly impossible. Kentucky and Ohio will now vie with any country in the world in fine cattle; and it may well be doubted whether so many of the *Improved* Short Horns can be enumerated in the land of their origin, as already exist in the United States. The facts, both as to prices and rapid increase of the Chinese mulberry, are the same as those applicable to the Short Horns. We have at the present moment a greater number of this valuable tree than can be found in all Europe, and prices at the sales of this fall indicate that the supply is not yet equal to the demand. That the Chinese mulberry will soon be worth any more than its actual value for making silk, it is absurd to suppose; and like all other speculations, those who embark in the growing, late and improvidently, will find it any thing but a money making business. Let us beware lest the mania at present existing for Short Horns and Mulberries be not, like the aforetime passion for Merinos, hereafter quoted as proof of the position that Americans always overdo a good thing.

POTATOES IN MAINE.

'It is an ill wind that blows nobody no good;' says the old saw, and the good people of Maine appear to be realizing its truth. The potatoe crop in that state is good, and an active exportation is now going on from the Penobscot and Kennebec, of this root, to those parts of the eastern and middle states that had their potatoes destroyed by the hot dry weather of the past summer. It is estimated that the farmers on the Kennebec alone will receive 300,000 dollars for potatoes; the price at the last advices being 40 cents, the potatoes delivered at the river. In this state there has been a very great inequality in the quantity and quality of this important crop. While in some sections there has been a complete failure; in others there has rarely been a better crop in every respect. Maine and Nova Scotia have the credit of producing the best potatoes grown on this continent, a strong proof that a cool and moist atmosphere is favorable to the perfection of this root, a fact that receives corroboration from the excellence they attain in the climate of Ireland. In an agricultural point of view, Maine is highly favored the present year. She has grown the greatest crop of wheat by far, ever grown in that section of the Union; her corn crop is good as could be expected; and the potatoe crop is first rate. The geological survey of the state has developed resources for the benefit of her farmers, of which they were before ignorant; the bounty on wheat has induced many to forsake the precarious business of lumbering, for raising bread, and the result is most happy. Success we say to the agriculture of Maine.

BOOKS FOR THE FARMER.

The noble proposition below, is from Mr. Robinson of Lake C. H., Ia., a gentleman who has honorably distinguished himself in the cause of Agriculture, and in endeavoring to elevate the standard by which the cultivator of the soil is to measure his success. Conscious that in union is strength, and that associations to promote the interests of agriculture have been productive of the best results, Mr. R. some months since, proposed the formation of a National Society, having for its objects the advancement of farming, to be located in some of our principal cities, Washington or New York; to be provided with a repository of agricultural implements; and holding annual fairs for the exhibition of the various products of the field, the great varieties of animals, implements to aid industry, ploughing matches, and in short to concentrate and bring to act upon the public mind, all the means that in other instances have been found so efficacious in impressing a consciousness of the importance of agriculture, and forming a taste for it, among the American people. To that proposition we gave our hearty assent, and shall rejoice at any steps that may be likely to lead to a realization of the benefits that could not fail of resulting from the establishment of such a society.

Mr. Robinson now comes forward in proposing another method of benefitting the farming community; a method which if carried into effect in the spirit with which it is proposed, can hardly fail of leading to the most important results. Every one feels that a series of books suitable for farmers are very much needed. The multitude of inquiries addressed to the conductors of agricultural journals on almost every subject, demonstrates this; and also proves that a series of works such as proposed by Mr.

Robinson, well executed, and with particular reference to this country, would be received with favor and read with profit. We can hardly imagine a greater service, that a man qualified for the business, could render the country, than by producing one or more of the books proposed; the school books, the manual, or the dictionary, or one that would be more likely to be suitably rewarded. Should the proposition 'take,' and such publications be produced, we shall not be backward in contributing our mite to swell the amount of compensation, or using our best efforts to give them an extensive circulation.

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Lake C. H., Ia., Aug. 27, 1838.

J. Buel, Esq.—Dear Sir—Not being blest with an overplus of gold and silver, I propose to offer a "barter trade," to any one desirous of obtaining a premium, upon the following proposition: I am the owner of sixteen lots, in one of the numerous new towns of the west. It was laid out in 1836, about three miles from the head of Lake Michigan, on the great western thoroughfare which passes the head of the lake, between Chicago and Michigan city. About $20,000 worth of lots were sold at the first sale, at prices higher than they now are worth. Yet I find from the assessment roll of 1838, now on file in my office, that the average assessed value of my lots, is $55 each. The Buffalo and Mississippi rail road, and a branch from the Lake Erie and Michigan canal to the Illinois canal, have been surveyed through the place, so that property is more likely to rise than fall. However, such as it is, I freely give, and if worthily won, I hope it may rise in value as fast as similar property has done all over the great west.

So, then to the offer. I appreciate your remarks in the Cultivator, No. 6, on the great want of "Agricultural School Books." Now to induce some one to begin a series of such elementary works, that will have a tendency to learn American youth such things as are the most important of all things for them to learn, that is, how to support themselves and families by the labor of their own hands, I offer, as a premium, five of the above mentioned lots, to any person or persons who will publish a series of five numbers of an "Agricultural School Library," to be submitted to, and approved by you, or any other gentlemen that you may associate with you for that purpose.

And I will also give two of said lots, to any person that will publish another work, to be called. "The Farmers' Manual," to be also submitted to, and approved by you, and to contain such maxims and advice as will be useful to new beginners in agriculture, whether old or young; rules that will be useful to the wife as well as the husband of such as are driven by necessity or choice from the employment in which they may have always been engaged, to take up the, to them, new employment of cultivation.

Thousands are deterred from attempting to earn their own living, because they *don't know how to begin.* Such would rejoice to have it in their power to procure such a book, as much as a navigator upon a strange coast would rejoice in procuring a new chart.

And in addition to the premium, I will subscribe for ten copies of each work, and take the agency of selling them without commission. Will some one, more able than I am, add to the premium.

And I will also give further premiums, to other objects that you will point out as worthy, which will tend towards the same object. That is the promotion of gricultural education; for I am convinced that the great object in view must be accomplished upon the rising generation.

A thought strikes me of another work worthy of a "premium lot,"—an Agricultural Dictionary; to be used not only as a necessary accompaniament to the series of school books, but as an invaluable work in the hands of every cultivator. I venture to say, that there are not one half of the readers of the Cultivator, (and no paper uses less unintelligable phrases,) who are not often puzzled to give the proper signification to necessarily common words. And to youth, the common names of soils, earths, and parts of plants, &c. are all Greek. To prove it, select fifty words that are found in every agricultural work, such as argillaceous, silicious, phosphate, sulphate, hydrate, carbonaceous, stamens, stolens, et cetera, (including the "et cetera,") and ask fifty of the first persons that you meet, to give you an intelligible definition of them, and see whether the answers do not demonstrate a very great necessity for an agricultaral dictionary. If the publication of one cannot be induced, let me ask whether a page of your paper might not be profitably devoted to that purpose. It is a great fault in all education, that we teach words without conveying any definite idea of their meaning.

One of the great benefits which I hope to live to see grow out of the formation of "the American Society for Agriculture," is an improved system of education throughout the whole country. I commend to your particular notice an article in No. 51, of the Franklin Farmer, upon "Agricultural Education."

What think you of a universal petition from all the friends of agricultural improvement and education in the U. S. to the next congress, for the establishment of a national agricultural school? Are we so much more of a warlike than an agricultural nation, that we endow a "military school," to the entire neglect of an agricultural one. Here, certainly is something wrong. "Something must be done,"—who will say, "something *shall* be done" and make the first step towards it by printing and sending a petition over the country for that purpose? The little that can be, will continue to be done, by your friend,

SOLON ROBINSON.

THRESHING MACHINES.

Great improvements have within a few years been made in these machines, simplifying them, and rendering them less costly, and what is of equal consequence, less dangerous. The fact that the grain worm will continue to feed on the berry after harvesting, how long is not ascertained, but in some instances certainly for a considerable time, and the great probability that its presence will be felt more or less unfavorably for a number of years, renders it very desirable that farmers should have the means of getting out their wheat as soon as may be after it is ripe. By so doing two advantages at least are gained,—the ravages of the worm are stopped at once; and the grain can be sent to market at any time, thus securing the best prices. In most parts of the district of Western New York ambulatory machines are found in almost every neighborhood, but these are not always able to do work when wanted, and the hurry attendant on pressing calls and a great number of hands, always produces more waste and consequent loss, than where more leisure is allowed and fewer hands required; at least such is most usually the case.

We have lately witnessed the operation of a machine that pleased us much, performing its work well, and for the effect produced, requiring less horse power, and less manual labor than any machine we have before seen. One horse on a moveable floor, and two men and a boy, can thresh from 80 to 100 bushels in a day, doing the work in the best manner. The machine is compact; the horse power standing on the floor by the side of the machine, a driver is dispensed with; and the whole apparatus can be placed in a wagon and removed at pleasure by a single span of horses. We have seen no horse power that promises to be so generally useful to the farmer as this; as it is evident a slight change would enable it to work a straw cutter or saw wood; or it might in large dairies perform the operation of churning; a horse for this purpose being no more objectionable than dogs. The cost of the horse power and threshing machine is about 110 dollars. The manufacturer's name we did not learn, but have instituted inquiries, which if successful, will be laid before our readers.* The one noticed was purchased in Fabius, Onondaga county.

In the Cultivator, we find the following letter from Mr. N. B. Pearsall of Butternuts, Otsego county, relating to a cheap threshing machine, and which, if portable and doing its work well, would seem to leave little to be desired on the score of cheapness, or saving of labor.

—

Cheap Horse Power and Thrasher.

Butternuts, July 20th, 1838.

Sir—Farmers are aware of the loss of time and labor attending the practice of thrashing with flails: and thrashing machines would be more generally introduced were they not too expensive for the means of most of our farmers; for this appears to be the principal cause why they do not provide themselves with them. We have a machine and horse power, built by our neighbor, Mr. Botsford—cost fifty dollars—which will thrash one hundred bushels of wheat in eight hours, attended by three men and a horse. We have done our thrashing with one horse, but two or three may be attached if necessary. The machine may be attended to very good advantage by a man and boy. It has been examined by several farmers and mechanics of our vicinity, and has uniformly met their approbation. There are several of our neighborhood who will each have one built the ensuing winter. Any kind of machinery may be attached to it capable of being porpelled by one, two or three horses. We want a machine for shelling corn, which may be attached to it. Can you direct us? Very respectfully yours,

NELSON B. PEARSALL.

* Since writing the foregoing we have learned that the machine alluded to, worked by one horse on an endless chain floor, is Badger's Patent; was made by Bramer of Fabius, Onondaga co., N. Y. and the price was about $110. Further observation has convinced us that for the purpose of cutting straw, sawing wood, or other purposes, it is better adapted for the farmer than any thing we have yet seen.

From the Zanesville Gazette.

Cultivation of Indian Corn.

Messrs. Parke & Bennett—I have raised, this year, thirteen different kinds of Indian corn. The cause of my planting so many varieties, is partly owing to accident and partly to design. I had several samples of new kinds, which I wished to try, and I planted some other kinds in order to obtain a regular succession of ears for boiling, or as the Buckeyes say, '*roasting ears*," though I have not seen an ear of corn roasted since I have been in Ohio.

On one of the latter days of April last, I planted four kinds, all of which would, in this part of the country, be considered *early*, as they would ripon much sooner than the common kinds here cultivated. Yet there is considerable difference in their relative earliness. They are what is called northern varieties, being distinguishable from the southern kinds by the roundness and hardness or flintiness of the kernel, compared with the flat and soft kernel of the latter varieties. I herewith send you samples of each of the four kinds here spoken of, and also two other kinds. The numbers on the labels, correspond with the following enumeration.

No. 1. Early White Tuscarora,
" 2. Early Canada Twelve Row,
" 3. Early Golden Sioux, or Dutton,
" 4. Hathaway,
" 5. Baden,
" 6. Texan.

No. 1 was received of Mr. J. Townsend of Falls township in this county. I do not know how long the stock from which this seed was taken, has been raised in this vicinity. Its earliness much depends on this, as I shall presently show. No. 2 was procured from Mr. H. G. Cole, of Hallowell, Maine, in 1837. No. 3 sent by Judge Harper, representative in Congress from this district, from the city of Washington last spring. I know not where it grew—probably in Maryland or Pennsylvania. No. 4 was obtained of R. Howard Esq. Easton, Mass. 1837.—No. 5 was obtained by a friend from the vicinity of Baltimore, Md. last spring.

I am so well satisfied of the importance of obtaining early vegetables from the north; that I have ordered my early seed potatoes for next season, from near the 45th degree of north latitude, in the state of Maine.

The extreme wetness and coldness of April and May, occasioned the failure of much of the first planted corn to vegetate. Not more than one third of it ever came up at all, and of what did finally come, the growth was for some time very slow, and the plants feeble. This so much affected the yield of the crop, that no fair calculations could be made as to the general productiveness of these kinds in this part of the country. Their maturity was also considerably retarded by the above mentioned causes; so that this experiment ought not to be taken as a *fair* criterion of either their earliness or productiveness. *Something*, however, of their relative earliness, may be inferred from the following: on the 19th of July, I found that much of No. 2 and a *little* of No. 1, was in a state fit for boiling. Eight days afterwards, No. 4 was in the same state, and 13 days afterwards, that is, on the first of August, No. 3 or the Dutton, was fit to boil. Considerable of No. 2 was ripe enough to harvest on the first of August. This variety passes much sooner from a state in which it is suitable to boil, to a state of ripeness, than any other I ever saw. It is valuable in northern latitudes, on account of its quick growth. In some parts of Maine, it has been harvested, perfectly ripe, in ten weeks from the time it was planted. Instances are not rare, of its yielding from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre.

The Dutton corn came up better than any of the other kinds. I saved all but one hill for seed, and carefully measured the ground and calculated the product. The yield was at the rate of 52 bushels to the acre. It has sometimes yielded 100 bushels to the acre. This corn was formerly obtained of the Sioux tribe of Indians, on the Upper Mississippi, (at least such is the *tradition*,) and was introduced into New-York and Massachusetts, where it has been cultivated and recommended by Judge Buel, a Mr. Dutton, E. Phinney, Esq. of Lexington, Mass. and is sometimes known in the latter state, and in Maine, as the *Phinney corn.* It has been introduced and considerably raised in the neighborhoods of Baltimore and Philadelphia for a year or two past, and has sometimes been found to yield more, under the same circumstances than the common kinds of flat corn raised in that vicinity, as will appear from several communications published in the Baltimore and Philadelphia papers.

No. 4 is considered a very valuable kind in the southeasterly part of Massachusetts. It will produce a greater number of ears in proportion to the number of stalks, or the number of kernels planted, than any kind I ever knew. From one kernel there are frequently three stalks bearing from one to three good ears each. The Plymouth county (Mass.) Agricultural society, has paid premiums for one hundred bushels and upwards of this kind of corn raised on an acre.

Whether any of these early northern varieties could be profitably adopted by the farmers here, for a general crop,

I cannot positively say. Under some circumstances they would undoubtedly be advantageous. If I had planted for my entire crop, either No. 3 (Dutton) or No. 4 (B'haway) I have no doubt I should have got a better yield than with the common varieties which I planted. For this reason—they would have grown so much quicker, that the crop would have been much less injured by the drouth. But there are some objections to these early kinds;—to how much weight they are entitled, experiments must show. Owing to the smallness of the stalk, the crop would require more attention and labor to prevent its being overrun with the great growth of weeds, to which all the best corn lands in this part of the country is subject. The grain is too hard to feed to any kind of stock without grinding. So far as my acquaintance extends, very little corn is ground for the purpose of feeding animals in this part of the country, and the softness and lightness of the corn commonly raised here and further south, renders it much better adapted to feeding in a crude state, than the heavier and harder corn of the north. In the northern states, where the early and flinty varieties alluded to, are raised, very little is used without being ground. That fed to animals is usually ground *with the cob*. Experiments, judiciously and carefully conducted, have shown that animals derive considerably more benefit from a given quantity of corn when ground into meal, especially if the meal is cooked, than when fed with it whole. But whether with the softer kinds of corn raised here, which are more easily and thoroughly masticated and digested, and considering also, the general system of feeding (in all its relations,) practised here, it would be economical to adopt the northern custom of grinding and cooking, can only be determined by experiment. The northern varieties of corn are several pounds in the bushel heavier than the southern or flat corn, and consequently may be considered as containing proportionately more nutriment, and are generally thought more valuable for culinary purposes.

If any of these varieties were cultivated here for a length of time, they would probably somewhat change in their characters, but whether they would become *more* productive, is questionable. In the year 1829, my brother brought out here from Massachusetts some of the kind which in the list is numbered 4. Last spring, I planted some of it which he had saved for seed last year. It has always been kept without any intermixture with other varieties, but what care has been used in selecting seed, I cannot say. I planted it by the side of the same kind which I brought from Massachusetts last year; but no one would have imagined on seeing it, when it had attained its full size, that it was the same kind or ever had been. That grown from seed the stock of which had been raised here for eight years, grew nearly twice the height of that produced from seed obtained in Massachusetts last year. It seemed to adhere to the habit of producing several ears to the stalk, but the ears were shorter and smaller. It had acquired by acclimation, a tendency to make more foliage and less grain, than that which was just brought from the north, and was besides a week or ten days later ripening. If people desire the earliest varieties of grain or vegetables, they should obtain seed from the highest latitudes that it is to be found; because the nature or the climate is there such that it induces a rapid growth and early maturity, in all annuals, and the plant will, in a degree, retain the characteristics there acquired even when carried to a different climate; but it will gradually lose its original peculiarities (unless care is taken in selecting seed, &c. to prevent it,) and assume habits and properties similar to those belonging to plants of the same species which have been for a long time cultivated in the region to which it is introduced.

On the 26th of May, I planted 15 kerneis of the Baden corn, (No. 5.) Only twelve of them came up, and one stalk of these produced nothing but smut, the remaining 11 produced twenty-eight good sized ears. The greatest yield of any one stalk was the three ears herewith sent. It put out in some cases for six or seven ears on a stalk, but no more than three in any case filled. It showed nothing like the product of eight, ten or twelve ears to the stalk which some talk of. It was planted on as good ground as any in this vicinity. It, however, suffered considerably from drouth, or otherwise it would probably have produced more. I should be glad to hear through your paper, how others in this neighborhood have succeeded with this kind of corn. Dr. Mathews of Putnam, I believe, raised it this season, and it would be gratifying to have from so close and accurate an observer as he is, a statement of its yield compared with other kinds. It has within a few years become much celebrated in some of the middle and southern states, and very high encomiums are bestowed on its productiveness. Experience does not enable me to speak with precision on this point, or on its adaptedness to the soil and climate of this vicinity; but one thing is certain, and that is, it requires a long season. It has scarcely had time enough to grow this year. I gathered mine on the 12th Oct. The stalks were, even then, quite green but fearing a severe frost, (which, according to my fears, occurred,) I thought it best to secure it. It appears to me also, to require a very strong soil, and to need a good deal of room. The rule among those who have cultivated it, is said to be to have the hills 4½ feet apart, and have two stalks in a hill.

The *Texan corn*, as it is here called, is peculiar in having each kernel eveloped in a husk. I perceived that some Illinois correspondent of the Genesee Farmer, very highly praises it under the name of the "*Stock corn*," and thinks its peculiarities render it very valuable for the purpose of feeding stock. But the kernel is so very hard, (as you will perceive from the specimen sent,) that I cannot think it so valuable even for this purpose, as some other varieties. As to productiveness, I should not think it remarkable.

SANFORD HOWARD.

From the Yankee Farmer.

Meeting of Farmers—Lime.

An interesting meeting was held in the Court House, at Northampton, on the evening of the 12th Oct. The meeting was called to order by Henry Colman, Agricultural Commissioner of this State, and was attended by farmers from all parts of the county, who were in Northampton attending the Cattle Show.

Mr. Colman stated that the object of the meeting was to elicit information upon agricultural subjects. He thought it highly important for farmers to meet together, not merely in a social, but in a professional capacity. Agriculture, he said, is a science depending on facts; it is not necessary that we understand all processes, but it is important that we observe facts, and deduce from them, a system of practice. It ought, then, to be an object with the farmers in every section of the country to meet together, and communicate their modes of operation, and offer such suggestions as occur to them, respecting different practices that come under their observation. In this way many errors would be corrected, a good husbandry would soon take the place of a bad one.

He proposed the subjects for inquiry and discussion, viz: *Wheat*, *Beet Sugar* and *Silk*, and hoped that every gentleman present, who had any experience on the subjects befere the meeting, would express their views freely, and in their own way, which is always the most sensible.

Facts respecting the application of Lime in the growth of Wheat.

Mr. Bridgeman of Belchertown, after raising Wheat with lime four years, was convinced of its advantage. His neighbors, while he was experimenting and even after the favorable results of those experiments were manifest, were for some time incredulous. But he persevered in the use of lime, determined to test its value. In his first experiment he applied what lime the grain would take after soaking in brine. Sowed one acre dry, and one acre limed; the difference in appearance was very apparent. On harvesting the produce from the limed acre was double in quantity of the other. In 1837 he tried another piece of wheat, on land planted two years with corn and potatoes. Sowed the seed on the 4th Nov.—let the grain take all the lime it would after soaking in brine. In May applied 1½ bushels of slacked lime on the suface. The crop was was good—37 bushels per acre where lime was used, 14 where none was used. He thought the practice of sowing winter wheat late was advisable; the crop was not so liable to injury by smut on that part of his wheat where lime was used. In answer to a question. My land is old, soil gravelly and light—no stone: bore a good crop of corn the year previous: the growth of wood was oak and pine. I have tried the application of lime, ashes, plaster and loam, and find the composition does better than either alone. Of the four, lime is best if used alone. My neighbors now all use lime; they had given up raising wheat in discouragement, but this year their crops of wheat were good.

Mr. Cook of Northampton, had used lime, in the same manner as described by Mr. Bridgeman, but saw no difference in this crop; tried it a few years ago with rolling, tried it without, but could see no difference. His land is meadow. Is not yet determined whether lime is useful or or not.

A gentleman from Worthington, sowed forty bushels of lime on 3½ acres of land, soil dry, product, 33 bush. per acre. Same on land not limed. Has no opinion of lime as a manure; thinks that wood-ashes on the surface previous to first hoeing, is beneficial. Soaked his wheat in lime and found much smut, caused, he thought, by luxuriance of foilage; this smut is not injurious. The smut that is fatal, is that where the kernel is destroyed.

Several other gentlemen gave in their testimony some in favor, and some against, the use of lime. From their "talk," it is evident that the use of lime is not understood. Much that has been written, has been written in ignorance. Before the useful properties of lime can be ascertained, a knowledge of the constituent properties of the soil and subsoil, is indispensible. The soil from which we derive subsistence is composed of several simple substances, to wit, sand, clay, *lime*, and magnesia. The most fertile soil contains the greatest quantity of sand and clay for its constitutent ingredients—a due proportion of each, and all other substances are to make up the other constituent ingredients by a judicious application of them as manures. "Every soil, says an agricultural writer, in a productive state, has been found to contain sand, clay and *lime*."

It is nothing strange that different farmers should find various effects from the use of lime; it is just what is to be expected. Because lime is a valuable manure in many cases, we must not suppose that it is universally so. We might as well use clay, for manure, on soils of every kind, and in every condition, and uniformly expect favorable results. Where there is already a plenty of calcareous matter in the soil, lime will do no good, and a liberal application would do injury.

On most soils lime is beneficial; if it contains very little or no lime, the application of this essential ingredient will be advantageous: if the soil contains mineral acid, or a portion of sour vegetable matter, the lime will have a very bedeficial effect, as the alkali of the lime will unite with the acids in the soil or vegetable matter, and neutralize them and convert them into salts, which will afford food for plants.

So, though lime enters but lightly into the composition of plants, yet it has a great and valuable effect in sweetening sour soils, in loosening and pulverising those that are close and hard, and rendering them permeable to moisture, and the fine roots of plants, in hastening the fermentation and decomposition of vegetable matter, and frequently rendering that which, without lime, would be insoluble, and a fit food for vegetables; in collecting from the earth and atmosphere the acids and oils, and serving as a laboratory in preparing them as a suitable pabulum or food which is taken up by the roots of plants.

There is a portion of lime in wheat, more than there is in most other kinds of grain and seed, hence no good wheat can be raised excepting where lime already exists in the soil or is applied as a manure.

Lime stone usually contains about 50 per cent. of fixed air, carbonic acid, 35 or 40 per cent. of which is driven off by calcination. It is then called caustic or quick lime; in this state it is not suitable to use as a manure to be applied to a soil which is to be cropped immediately, as it will take up the fixed air which is necessary to nourish the plants, nor is it in this caustic state suitable to use in making compost manure, unless ligneous or other hard vegetable substances are to be decomposed. If quick lime be exposed to the atmosphere it will imbibe moisture and contract fixed air, and become reduced to a fine powder, it then possesses the same constitutent principles, as it did before it was calcined, though it is not solid. Some writers on this subject have recommended grinding lime stone for manure, instead of burning it, as by burning two ingredients essential to agricultural productiveness, water and carbonic acid, are driven off by the heat; then the lime is too caustic for vegetation, and it must lay awhile, sometimes remain a whole year in the earth before it has any good effect. As this acid or fixed air is an important principle in plants, it is necessary that the lime be well saturated with it that it may be furnished as food to vegetables.

The use of lime as a manure has not been much practiced in this country, and it is not well understood. The most of the writings we have on the subject are from Europe, where the lime generally used for manures differs materially from ours, as it has much less strength, and, of course, much larger quantities are applied than would be proper here. We solicit communications on this subject from those who have practical knowledge.

Potatoe Tops for Fodder.

MR. HOLMES—I have saved my potatoe tops for fodder for several years, and know from experience that they are as good as well cured clover hay for feeding cattle, horses or sheep, and they will eat them up as clean as they will hay. My flock of 16 sheep which are of a mixed breed of Devonshire and Merino, did not eat one hundred pounds of hay each or an ounce of any other kind of food last winter, except potatoe tops, and I never had sheep come out in the spring more healthy or in better condition. Their fleeces when sheared averaged four pounds each.

I gather the potatoe tops at the time of digging the potatoes, and mow them away with straw, first pitching in a layer of straw and then a layer of potatoe tops. Throwing on a little salt I found to be advantageous. They will keep perfectly well in this way. If they are packed in solid by themselves they are liable to mould and rot, especially if they are somewhat green when collected.

WILLIAM BISHOP.

Montville, Oct. 11, 1838. [*Maine Far.*

"BIGGER YET."—The calf exhibited at the Kennebec Co. Ag. Society's cattle show by M. E. Folsom of Monmouth is *less than six* months old, and weighs 510 lbs. He is well proportioned and bids fair to make a first rate bull. Such stock is valuable and ought to be more extensively raised than it is.

From the Mechanic and Farmer.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT.

One of the best improvements of the present age is that of establishing Lyceums and other associations for mutual improvement among their members, by bringing out, and encouraging the particular talent of each individual, and by affording the community, at a trifling cost, with popular instruction, by way of lectures. Every village can well afford to sustain an institution of this kind, and, in fact, if the inhabitants mean to keep up with the general intelligence of the community, or do what they ought to guard the rising generation from the temptations of evil company, dissolute habits, and blunted moral sensibility, there is a necessity resting upon them to be active in sustaining a pleasant and useful society, of the kind we have mentioned. In every village, a few men, at least, can be found, whose education will warrant their taking the lead in the exercises, and affording encouragement to others to do what they can, and by careful study, in a short time, be prepared to do better. There is talent lying idle, and perhaps may never see the light of day without some such means, and talent too, of no ordinary cast. We are certain of this, for we recollect, many years since, when we were an apprentice, in a shop where were about a dozen workmen, and while all were busily engaged in work hearing remarks and conversations, of the errors in practice, and the unjust inequalities, and the false prejudices in society, that since, when coming from older men who were scholars, have started us like electricity. And yet when calmly composed, have resulted in the same simple yet impressive truth, with less natural and consequently less forcibly illustrations.

The season of the year, as the long evenings have come upon us, has naturally led us to write a word upon this subject, for the purpose of persuading our friends, and the friends of humanity, and good morals, and general intelligence in every town to take active measures for the approaching winter, which, by a wise disposition of time, has in many parts of New-England, been appropriated as a season of intellectual harvest.

In small towns, all classes ought to join with one heart and one mind, in establishing a mutual improvement society, and give to all the benefit of the knowledge of each. The minister, in this way, would obtain much valuable information in the practical affairs of life, and the wants and trials of his flock; while the farmer and the mechanic, would be enabled to lay up a store of scientific principles, and practical results, which would afford amusement, and activity of mind, besides aiding them in their several pursuits. In short, there never was, and there never will be, any one man who knows every thing, and the nearest approach you can get to it, is, by some similar method to the one we recommend.

In some villages, the mechanics should form an association, and commence in employing lecturers occasionally, and in meeting to read and have debates or conversations on practical and scientific subjects. A very good exercise for some of them, would be, to collect the scattered scraps of the history of their town from its earliest settlement, and to collect as many specimens of its mineralogy, geology, and natural history as possible.

In other places, the young farmers would find a great deal of amusement and ultimate benefit, in preparing plans for laying out a farm, giving the arrangements, size, and location of the several buildings, with their different apartments; the form and style of the garden, shade trees, orchard &c. These plans could be compared, amended and finally enlarged, to embrace, not only the form and location, but the manner of cultivating the several portions, and the different soils, together with the best materials for building, the time and manner of procuring them, &c. &c, An effort of this kind well begun and perseveringly pursued, would have no limit, short of the extent of human skill and knowledge. It would give an activity to the inventive faculties, and the mind, and lead those engaged in the business to examine books and other means of information, and thus make thinking, strong minded men, of those, who, without some such method might never rise above the dead level of ordinary capacities.

At the present time, it is a serious fact, and one frequently of great annoyance and cause of complaint, that a majority of the young men who offer themselves for work as farmers, have acquired very few correct principles of farming or much skill in practice, except in relation to a few of the more common duties. We have known cases of young men who thought they understood the business of farming, when set at work to hoe a garden would invariably cover up half the weeds and pass so slovenly over the beds as to do about as much injury as good, or if employed in transplanting were so thoughtless or ignorant of the principles of vegetable life as to destroy half the plants, and generally about their work executed it in so bungling a manner as to try the patience of a Job.—We know a man, who is now getting to be a pretty good farmer, who declared a while since that he should have been the gainer, while young, had he given a year's work to some neat and well skilled farmer for the information he should have gained. The facts show the necessity for an increase of knowledge in the principles of the science of agriculture, and the importance of attending to it in the manner we have pointed out, or some other of equal extent.

We might pursue this subject through the whole of the community, and trace some of its effects in every family. But we are aware that we are limited to the length of a newspaper article, and must rest satisfied with merely throwing out a few hints, for those who are disposed to avail themselves of them, with the sincere hope that some measures, active and immediate, will be taken to carry some such plan into effect.

The responsibility rests upon the active intelligent men in every town to begin, and a duty is upon every one, however humble, to put his shoulder to the wheel, and lift with his whole strength. Heave! ho! then, altogether! and take a mutual interest in what will mutually benefit all.

From the Indiana Farmer.

NEW-YORK HUSBANDRY.---No. 2.

Corn is a valuable crop to the farmer, and is capable of producing a more abundant yield of grain and for age than any crop he can raise; hence the necessity of giving it good culture. It has been found by repeated experiments that 100 bushels per acre can be grown under the new system with nearly the same labor that 50 was under the old system.

It is conceded by all good farmers, that the ground should be sod, having lain to meadow or pasture three years previous to breaking up for corn;—that if any parts of the field are wet, they should be thoroughly underdrained before proceeding to plough, as it is folly to plant a piece of ground to corn, that is saturated with water.

All plants require moisture, but not a surplus; and grounds that are thoroughly underdrained suffer nothing from a surplus of water, can be ploughed earlier and will likewise have a manifest advantage in retaining moisture in times of drouth.

Having drained the field if necessary we will next proceed to manuring and ploughing. All the long manure from the barn yard and stables should be drawn on immediately preceding the ploughing, and be raked in the furrow; and every farmer should use *all* his straw in bedding his horses and cattle, in order to make the greatest amount of manure possible, and in all cases to apply it to hoed crops in a long or unfermented state. The reason for this is obvious; the gasses produced from manure in a state of fermentation proceed directly to nourish the plant, exactly at the time it is needed, when producing and perfecting the ears.

The farmers of Indiana may possibly laugh at the idea of manuring their lands, but who ever saw ground too rich for corn? and is there not a possibility of wearing out their lands by a continual succession of cropping? and is it not much easier to *keep* land in good tilth than to reclaim it after having been worn out?

The ploughing should be well done at the depth of 7 inches at least, being careful to turn over every sod; and a great advantage will arise from having coulters or cutters attached, and set exactly to the middle of the point of the share—when this is done the share cuts a little more to land—a farmer's phrase—than the coulter, which leaves a thin edge to the next furrow—and so on in succession, which turns much easier and smoother in consequence.

The rolling process comes next; this gives an even surface that the harrowing may be more effectually performed. The harrow should be passed over it until the earth is completely pulverized; much labor being saved in the hoeing, by properly preparing the ground before planting. The planting can be better performed with Robbins' "corn planting machine" than with the hoe. It will drop either in hills or drills; but drilling proves to be the better method, as each stalk stands separately, thus producing more ears, and of larger growth than they otherwise would standing n hills. The grains can be dropped at any distance wanted; iand it answers equally well for planting ruta baga, onions, carrots, &c. With this machine a man will easily plant 6 acres per day—the price is $10. As soon as the corn is up sufficiently to follow the rows, the cultivator must be kept going and hoed certainly twice, as it is quite necessary that all grass and weeds should he destroyed if we intend to get a heavy crop. By the use of the cultivator we keep an even surface, the roots or mouths of the plant are not injured, weeds are destroyed, the earth is completely pulverized, which renders it porous, and consequently pervious to atmospheric nourishment. The teeth for the cultivator should be made of wrought iron laid with steel; cast iron answers no purpose at all. I believe I am warranted in saying, that the plough should in no case be used. Every farmer has noticed the small fibrous roots projecting every way from the stalk, which are the very mouths of the plant in search of food. If the plough is used these are more or less injured; hence the supply of nourishment is greatly lessened for the want of organs to conduct it to the plant—and the natural and inevitable consequence is, the crop is lessened very materially.

I have never noticed more difference from the use of the plough and cultivator than the present year. Every field that I have observed, where the cultivator was used, the corn is exceedingly good; and on the other hand every field where the plough was used, there is but half a crop.

It is decidedly the best method to cut the corn at the ground, and put it into "shocks;" this should in all cases be done before frost comes upon it. By cutting it early, or as soon as the ears are glazed, and before the stalks get dry we save an abundance of good fodder, and likewise gain considerable in weight and quantity of grain.

The farmers here are now, 10th mo. 4th, generally engaged in husking and cribbing their corn, and stacking their stalks, which is decidedly better, than to let it stand in the field through the winter. Indeed a man here suffering his corn to stand out during the winter, would be considered as having no claim to the name of farmer. I noticed in a ride of a hundred miles the present week, whole fields where the corn was all nicely cribbed, and the stalks removed to sheds or put into stack.

Every farmer should test every thing by experiment—take one acre for instance, manure it, plant it with corn—use the cultivator if he has before used the plough, in fact manage it on the most scientific principles, and if he gets 100 bushels, (and he can get more) will not 10 or 20 acres produce the same quantity if managed in the same way?

GEO. WILLETS.

Skaneateles 10th, mo. 4th, 1838.

"The Farmer's Guide."

Under this title, Mr. *Gaskins*, late proprietor of the Virginia House, Pratt street, Baltimore, has published a neat volume on agriculture, in which he advances certain principles of a *novel* character, and assumes for his work the the merit of its being the herald of a *new system* of husbandry. He maintains that, by following the course he has laid down, *manure* is not absolutely essential to the cultivation and improvement of the earth. He goes upon the plan, that, by keeping the ground principally in clover and timothy, sufficient improvement will be effected to secure good crops; he is averse to ploughing the ground in autumn, and exposing it to the influence of frosts, as he conceives that, by such exposure, a great loss by the escape of *nitre* ensues. In putting in the winter crops of grain, he recommends that *buckwheat* be sown on it, for the two fold purpose, of keeping the wheat and rye warm throughout winter, and of preventing that nitrous evaporation, which he considers detrimental to the soil. He states that the fall grain should be gotten in all in September, and the early part of October, and affirms that by the time the frosts are sufficiently severe to cut down the buckwheat, it will have attained a height of 18 inches, and thus afford not only a warm covering for the grain, protection to the earth, but, by its decomposition the ensuing spring, give out a vast quantity of food for the growing grain plants. We hesitate not to say, that if the grain and buckwheat were put in *earlier*, that is, in the beginning of September, that much more benefit would accrue to the grain crops, that if delayed to the latest period named by Mr. Gaskins; nay, we think his suggestion of sowing the buckwheat a good one; but we object to the delay of putting in the seed as late as October, if the object be benefit from the covering of buckwheat.

We have thus cursorily alluded to this part of his work, and although we are not one of those who believe it practicable to successfully cultivate the soil without manure, we are free to confess that there are many suggestions in his book which we esteem as valuable, and believe that any farmer who may purchase it, will find something in it by which he may profit, and, therefore, commend it to the favorable notice of all.

Mr. Gaskins is too good a farmer not to know that to produce a healthful covering of either clover or timothy, it is necessary that the soil be in *good condition*, and we of course, presume that he presupposes such to be the fact before his "*new system*" will apply. But be this as it may, to us it appears obvious that such must be the condition of any ground on which either of the grasses named by him can be advantageously grown, and hence it necessarily follows, that before any *worn-out* lands can be rendered available by his plan, a previous preparation by manuring must be had. And we will here remark, that before any such lands can be brought up to a state of fertility equal, or superior to its virgin excellence, if calcareous matter be not present in the soil, that that deficiency must be supplied, as, to a certain extent, that principle must be *existent* before any very salutary change of a permanent character can take place. We have noted these points, because we believe that all organic changes, of a meliorating character in the productive capacities of the earth, will mainly depend upon carrying out the principle we have suggested. If calcareous matter be not present in the earth, as we have observed, we hold it essential that it be placed there; for without it, alimentary manure will perform but half its beneficent office—with it, its effects will not only be prompt but lasting.

Mr. *Gaskins'* work treats of agriculture *generally*, and lays down many rules of great value, to be applied to the growth of various productions of the earth, and in con-

clusion we would respectfully recommend to all planters and farmers to *buy his book*, as the most skilful among them will find something by which he may profit, and if he should find views in it which do not accord with his own, still that which he does approve of, will more than compensate him for his expenditure. It should be the business of all to seek information in every quarter whence it is attainable, for human knowledge like physical matter, is but an aggregate of minute atoms. And as Mr. Gaskins was for many years a *practical* farmer, and speaks from his own experience, it is but fair to presume that *experience* has prepared him for the business of a teacher.

The literary character of the book, though somewhat ambitious in style, is decidedly respectable; its mechanical execution is good, and we hope that his brother farmers will respond to his endeavors to serve them, by liberally patronising his work.—*Baltimore Farmer.*

Benefit of Applying Plaster.

Mr. J. Buel—The beneficial effects of plaster on different varieties and species of vegetation are generally understood in expediting the germinating process, and in advancing the young and tender plant in its incipient growth; but a development of its power and virtue, at different periods throughout the growing process, under a certain state and condition of the earth and atmosphere, has not been either sufficiently investigated or made public. During the excessive heat and drouth which visited this section of county, in common with many others surrounding, and in some instances detached portions as it respects the latter, our late summer crops, under ordinary circumstances, suffered severely; the potato crop being quite light, and the corn crop short of an average yield. About four acres of corn, planted on the 10th of May, on a gravelly soil in good condition, much of which, however, had not a depth of more than ten or twelve inches, reposing on a slate rock. On the third week of the drouth the leaves began to fold, and continued so until all hopes of a crop were at an end: most of it was in silk and setting. I sowed half of the piece most injured with plaster, broadcast, over the leaves, a bushel and a peck the acre, after sunset. The beneficial effect derived from it was almost instantaneous; its attractive power in absorbing the moisture, and probably other fertilizing principles from the atmosphere, in three or four days restored its healthy appearance much; the other half of the field, more favored with a deep, rich soil, was apparently much less injured by the drouth; the whole piece was plastered before it was hoed; the half receiving the second plastering turned out the greatest yield: the drouth continued for ten days after the second plastering; a few rows on the margin, of a similar depth of soil and equally fertile, which was not plastered, produced not half as much. About an acre of potatoes, planted in the same field, and plastered broadcast at the same period with the corn, at least doubled the product.

We all know that frequent experiments have been made on wheat, oats, corn and potatoes, at an advanced growth of those products, by sowing plaster, broadcast, over their tops or leaves, without any apparent beneficial effect. I have tried the experiment twice on potatoes and once on corn, without much success: the reason was obvious; the atmosphere was warm, and the earth supplied with a sufficient quantity of moisture.

The main and almost exclusive virtue in plaster is to keep up a moderate degree of warmth, and to supply, through the medium of the leaves, that moisture and fertilizing principle for the support, growth and maturing the grain, which the roots are incapable of affording and extracting from a parched up earth, and the leaves and stalks from a dry, arid atmosphere. Such was the case in July and a part of August with us. Plaster acts very slowly, and almost imperceptibly, even in a drouth, on argillaceous or clayey soils, until the succeeding year, when it develops its beneficial effects on clover and other grasses.—Plaster does its duty most effectually on all silicious compositions, on sandy, gravelly, and on all soils composed more or less of sand. JOHN G. GEBHARD.

Claverack, Sept. 21*st*, 1838.

From the Zanesville Gazette.

MANGEL WURTZEL.

Messrs. Parke & Bennett—Having seen published many strange accounts of the wonderful productiveness of the mangel wurtzel, I was induced to try an experiment with them in our region of country; and through the politeness of A. A. Guthrie, of Putnam, I procured some seed from New-York and planted about the 20th of May last. The ground on which they were planted is the high, dry and clayey ridge, immediately adjoining and east end of Uniontown, and was prepared in the following manner: first plowed, then harrowed fine, then furrowed out as close as possible in double furrow, that is, running the plough forwards and back in the same furrow, throwing the earth outwards. I then hauled well rotted stable manure and scattered a suitable quantity in these furrows, and afterwards split the former ridges with the plough, throwing back the earth on the first furrows, so as to form a ridge on the manure. The ridges were then dressed with the hoe and shovel and the seed planted on the ridges about two inches deep and four inches apart. Soon after planting there came a very heavy cold rain, which was succeeded by cold and dry winds, which so baked the ground that the seed came up very irregularly and left at least a fifth of the ground vacant. What came up grew thriftily and looked well, till about the first of August, when the drouth set so severely on them that they seemed to be at an entire stand. At this time we tried them, for table use and found them a tolerable table beet. As I had lost all hope of any considerable yield, I let the family use and sell to the neighbors so as very much to diminish the quantity, I should otherwise have had. The light rains that fell about the first of September, however, gave them a second start and they grew far beyond my expectation. I harvested them in the last of October and found many of them weighing from 5 to 7 lbs. I then measured them and found I had 60 bushels left after all the waste that had been made of them. This yield being much greater than I had expected, after encountering so many disadvantages, I was induced to measure the ground on which they grew and found it to contain 16 square rods or one-tenth of an acre.

You will see that the product of this experiment was at the rate of 600 bushels to the acre, and I am well satisfied from the foregoing trial, that in a usual season and with ordinary care and culture, we may reasonably expect 1000 bushels to the acre; and they require no other culture than to keep the weeds and grass hoed and pulled out of them. If they are as good for cattle as represented by those acquainted with them, (which we have no reason to doubt,) the product of one acre would keep six or seven milch cows a whole winter, and make them yield as much milk and butter as the best clover pasture will in summer.

MATHEW M'ELHINEY.

Uniontown Farm, Nov., 1838.

P. S. I should have remarked that on part of the ground I used lime, well mixed with the manure, at the rate of 30 or 40 bushels to the acre; and that the happy effect of the lime was discernible to the last row on which it was used. I should also remark that the plants ought not to be suffered to grow nearer than 7 or 8 inches asunder, or should be thinned to that space by taking them out for early use. M. M'E.

From the Yankee Farmer.

INDIAN WHEAT.

Mr. Editor—A few weeks since I noticed in the Essex Gazette some remarks, speaking in no favorable terms of Indian Wheat, which was so highly recommended last spring in the agricultural papers. The editor of the Gazette thinks that it is not good for bread; says that horses, after taking a mouthful, will turn away; hogs will rub their noses in it, but never eat a mouthful; and he concludes by advising those who have raised it, to throw it into their manure heap, as the best and most profitable disposition that can be made of it. Now before the farmers of Essex follow this advice, let them give heed to the statement made by Mr. Clark, the well known Northampton farmer. He says that "he finds the Indian Wheat very prolific, as much so as was reccommended. He has used it a few weeks in his family for bread, and the only fault the housewife finds with it is, that it works, looks and tastes too much like wheat flour." In Vermont it is extensively used for bread, but care must be taken in grinding not to bruise the hull with the flour, as it imparts an unpleasant, bitter taste. This may be easily avoided by the miller. Mr. Clark's hogs eat, and have been fattened altogether on Indian Wheat, and a better looking family of swine never was seen. Hogs, it is said, do not relish this food so well after feeding on corn; but they are not exempt from their failings, and like bipeds, if attention is not paid to their dietetic habits when young, they will acquire bad tastes not easily to be eradicated. It is hard for an old dog to forget his tricks—hard for a man in the habit of stuffing himself with rich sauces and gravies to content himself with a plain wholesome dish.—Why not so with a hog? It is hard for him to leave off eating corn, and take to Indian wheat, as the taste is so totally different, though the wheat is as good for him; he will grow fat as fast, and is much better for his owner because it is not half so expensive. As we cannot reform the tastes of our swine then, you that have Indian wheat, save it until another family of porkers surrounds you, and then begin with them right, and you will soon find the value of the article. W.

From the Yankee Farmer.

Preserving Bees through the Winter.

Small swarms of bees that have had but little honey, have been preserved in a healthy condition by putting them into a dark dry cellar, when the severe cold weather commences in the fall, and letting them remain until warm weather in the spring. Some swarms of bees have wintered well in a cellar when they have not had half honey enough to keep them if they remained exposed as usual. Small swarms produce but little heat, and of course they suffer from cold when in a cold place.

If rats and mice are allowed to run at large in the cellar, the bees should be protected against them. Some men in making bee hives, do not properly consider the difference in the size of a bee and a mouse, and in making a door for the former they give it sufficient size to admit the latter, and this intruder will take possession of the hive, whether it be in the cellar or on the stand in spite of the hostile disposition of the occupants. Whether the entrance of the hive be large enough to admit a mouse or not, it would be well to nail a piece of tin at the top to prevent any depradators from eating into the hive; this should be done with caution, as a little jarring of the hive will be liable to break down the comb.

A large swarm of bees produces a great deal of heat, and they often winter well when the hives are exposed to the weather in a bleak place; but we think it is best to protect them with a shed or house from storms and sunshines. When hives are exposed to storms the place left open to admit fresh air is liable to be filled up with snow and ice, and the bees become suffocated.

When the hives are protected by a covering, the temperature is more regular than when they are exposed to the sun in a mild day, and then to severe cold by night; we should think that such great and sudden changes very injurious to bees, and would cause them to eat more honey. When the sun shines on hives in a mild day, the bees are likely to revive and go out, and then become chilled and fall on the snow, from which they cannot recover.

A great many large swarms of bees are found dead in the spring with an abundance of honey, and many persons wonder at their dying when they have enough to eat. The cause of their death in such cases is very obvious; the hive are generally filled full and the bees numerous, so they have not room enough; frequently from the snow outside and from the dead bees, particles of comb and perspiration from the bees which runs down and freezes, on the inside, the door of the hive is obstructed so that the bees die of suffocation; bees need pure air as well as wholesome food. But allowing that the hive is protected from storms, and an air hole is made so far from the bottom that it is not liable to obstruction on the inside, then the danger from suffocation is not so great, yet large swarms in full hives will frequently die with honey enough. The great perspiration of the bees keeps a continual dampness in the hive, so that the comb becomes mouldy and the air foul and too damp for comfort or health. We have seldom known bees to die in the winter while they had honey, when the hive was only partly full; and when we have set our hive on another, or on a box, and the bees have worked down in it but a little, and it remained under them through the winter, we have found that they have wintered well; from these observations, we found it best to give bees a plenty of room in the winter, and we have practised this method with success, In the fall we set the hive on another, or on a box a foot high or more, leaving a hole open at or near the lower hive or box, and another at the lower part of the hive in which the bees are. Then the bees will have proper air from the circulation from the empty hive; and the dampness from the perspiration of the bees will in some measure fall down into the lower hive, and when it congeals upon the sides of the hive, it will on a warm day melt and run down to the bottom, and beyond the heat of the bees, it will generally remain frozen.

From the Maine Farmer.

Improved Breed of Sheep.

Dr. Holmes—Having taken great pains to improve the breed of sheep, I have endeavored to collect evidence, that I have in some measure succeeded in the attempt. You will therefore please insert in your Maine Farmer the following extracts from two letters received by me, as evidence from experienced farmers and good judges of the qualities that constitute a profitable sheep.

CHS. VAUGHAN.

Extract from Horace Wilder's Letter, dated North Dixmont, 27*th Sept.* 1838.

"The buck I bought of you (¼ South Down and ¾ the mixed breed, Dishley ½, Merino ¼) served 45 ewes, and 45 lambs were dropped—all alive except one. One of my ewes proved with lamb about a month before the others,—at shearing time that was weighed with two of the best South Downs, and was two or three pounds lighter than they were, though a month older, and I think it was about the average weight of the *flock* at that time. As to their vigor and growth, they were decidedly superior to any flock of lambs that I ever raised. The lambs are remarkably docile and peaceably; as a matter of course, they feed well, and are fat early in the season. I think the South Down or a mixture of the South Down and Dishley will prove to be the best breed that we can have in this cold climate."

Extract from a letter from Moses Tabor, Esq. dated Vassalboro' 10th mo. 5th.

"Any person at all acquainted with the points or symmetry requisite to insuse a healthy, vigorous animal, will see at a glance that the South Down possesses them near-

er to perfection than any other of our domestic animals. The full blood South Down buck was taken from the flock the 28th or 9th of November last, when he had received no extra care or keeping, (then about 19 months old,)—the day following he was turned in with my ewes; from them by him we had 95 thriving lambs, not a feeble one in the number nor one lost excepting by some casuality. As they were so immensely large and strong, we weighed several of them as soon as they were dry, say 9 hours old, average weight 11 to 12 lbs. At 15 days old some of them weighed 19 to 20 lbs. and this too in the middle of the month of May, when the sheep had very much lost their appetite for hay and before grass had grown to give them much of a bite, as all know the last spring was cold and dry until the last of May. Some of the lambs have been weighed recently and average 65 lbs. at 5 months old, and in poor pasture, *very poor*, part of the summer. The lambs appear altogether superior to any breed we have had in this section. My neighbors and others say they never saw such fine ones before. The full blood buck I had of thee (about two and a half years old) has had no extra keeping, except during the time of service with the ewes, when it had a few turneps or oats daily."

Live Fences of the Willow.

White-Hall, Va. 27th Sept. 1838.

JUDGE BUEL—Dear Sir—I do not recollect to have seen any thing said in regard to live fences made out of yellow willow: if any thing in the following is worthy your notice, or likely to be of advantage to the numerous readers of your excellent paper you may use it to the best advantage. In our region, say the counties of Frederick, Clark, Warren, Page and Shenandoah, there are many miles of live fence, especially upon the banks of the North and South branches of the Potomac river, made of the branches of the yellow willow. In the month of March they are cut down and trimmed with an axe, say eight or nine feet long, so that cattle cannot well reach the tops and trim them, in which case they do not live well: however they are planted at most all seasons of the year, though the spring is preferable; all sizes are planted, as near the edge of the water as possible, in the spring: at other seasons, when the waters are low, we do not plant so close. About the size of a man's wrist is the best size to live well, but they are often much larger, as well as smaller and do well: they are generally planted three or four feet apart, the large end of the limb, branch or plant being cut sharp, ready to force in the ground, which is done by means of a Jackson, (as some call it,) made of tough oak, gum or locust, to drive in the ground, say eighteen inches or two feet: this Jackson, as it is called, has a pin through the top, an inch and a fourth or half thick, to draw the Jackson, and an iron socket at the bottom. It is best, perhaps, to have several sizes to suit the limbs. After the Jackson has been drawn, the plants pushed down in the hole firm, two or three hands will make a long string of fence in a day by having two good mauls: the hole is made in less than a minute. After the willows are set it is best to plant in brush of some kind; if you do not, and water should get high soon after planting, they will not stand so well; and another advantage in planting in brush is, sediment and trash settle in behind the willows, make them stand firm, and grow more rapidly. However, some few plant and leave them several years, then cut off the tops and plat the fence, which is not a good plan. A live fence in this way is ready for use as soon as it is platted. We have taken a great many rails and fire wood off of those fences when they get ten or a dozen years old, the growth on water is so quick.

I remain, dear sir, your most obed't servant,

SAM'L M. SPINGLES.

Cultivator.]

Making and Fining Cider.

Ballston, September 20, 1838

DEAR SIR—Agreeable to my promise, I send you an account of my process of making cider.

I grind my apples after they have become mellow, carefully throwing out all that are defective. I stir up my pomace till it becomes red from the action of the air; then press out the juice slowly—put it in casks—bung it up—and immediately place it in the cellar. Before the fermentation commences, I insert a flexible tube (lead pipe I have used) through the bung, and bend the other end into a cup of water or cider placed on the cask near the bung, to allow the carbonic acid gas to escape, and to prevent the oxygen of the air from decomposing the saccharine matter. So soon as the gas ceases bubbling through the cup, the fermentation has ceased; it is then drawn off into clean casks, bunged tight and placed in a cool dark cellar, where it will continue sweet for any length of time. The advantage of this process is, that you preserve the juice perfectly sweet, and you are more sure to draw it off at the right moment after fermentation has ceased. I place it in the cellar to ferment, because the temperature is more uniform, and it is not so liable to be agitated by sudden gusts of air or disturbed by other causes. When fermenting, the lighter particles of pomace are rising, the more heavy settling; and the least touch of the cask will disturb the operation. I use *no ingredient whatever* to make my cider good or to preserve it; and I almost invariably have it of the purest and best quality. Yours most respectfully,

W. G. VERPLANCK.

Cultivator.]

The Wheat Maggot.

New-Scotland, October 9, 1838.

J. BUEL, Esq—Sir—In the October number of the Cultivator you ask for information respecting an insect or worm, which preys upon the wheat crop after it has ripened. I will describe a destroyer which I have seen, which may or may not be the one you allude to. I had five acres of winter wheat on a dry gravelly soil in the summer of 1832, and a few days previous to cutting it, I rubbed in my hand one of the heads, and among the kernels I discovered a greyish worm, about one-eighth of an inch in length, and about the thickness of a cambric needle: it appeared brisk and active, and, like the caterpillar, upon being touched coiled itself immediately up. It resembled a species of grub, though I saw nothing upon it in the form of legs; on examining the kernels in my hand, I found two-thirds of them punctured as with a small needle; the heart mostly eaten out, and they were easily rubbed fine. I looked still farther but saw nothing more of the worm or his work. In the autumn following, when preparing some of the above mentioned wheat for seed, by immersing it in strong pickle, I was not a little surprised to see aparently full and plump kernels, float on the surface, which, on examination, proved to be entirely eaten up, save the shells; and in most of them a small hole was clearly seen. From every two bushels thus immersed about one quart floated from the above cause.

Before I lay down my pen, I must just remark, with regard to pickling and liming seed grain, that I believe it should be strictly adhered to, as I have practiced it upon all kinds of grain, except peas and buckwheat, and can speak of its benefits to every kind.

Yours with respect,

W. MURPHY.

Cultivator.]

Planting Garden Seeds in the Fall.

Two years ago, after taking the vegetables from our garden, we immediately prepared the beds and sowed onions, parsneps, carrots, lettuce, beets, cabbage, &c. on the fourteenth day of October. They were covered with rye straw, and litter, and manure from the barn yard thrown over them to the depth of 4 or 5 inches. In the spring, as soon as the frost was out, this was removed and we found that in consequence of the straw not being well thrashed, much rye had dropped upon the ground and had taken root, in extricating which we uprooted and destroyed a large portion of our young plants, which had already started and were doing well. What did grow, however, did well and were large enough to use a number of days sooner than those planted as early in the spring as the weather would permit. Plants from the cabbage seed sown in the fall, were much more thrifty, and produced larger heads, than those of the same variety sown the in spring. We name this as the result of a single experiment, and as we are in no situation to repeat it this, we should like to have some of our friends try it, and let us know the result next fall. Let a few rows of each kind of seed be sown in one bed, to try the experiment, and we would recommend covering it with the boughs of evergreen trees, if they can be handily obtained, or some pieces of boards, instead of straw, as no grain can then shake off, & they will assist to protect it from frost.—*Maine Farmer.*

Liquid Manure.

In our paper last week, we published an article from the Genesee Farmer, on the good effects of watering Peach and other fruit trees, with chamber lye, and intended when we selected it, to have followed it with some remarks, on the use of that article as a manure, which we neglected, and will now give them.

Of the good effects of the above article as a maaure for a garden, and particularly for cucumbers and squashes we can speak with confidence, having used it several years and watched carefully its effects upon various plants.

The idea of using it, was first suggested by a friend who gave us some cucumbers, a week or ten days before our own were large enough to eat. On inquiring what kind of manure he applied to bring them forward so early, he said "he did not use any; but he yarded his cows upon the ground and scraped up all the manure they made and took it off." We concluded that the advantage must been derived from the stalings of the cows, and from that time forward we had placed within our garden fence, the last of February or first of March, an old hogshead or something of the kind, and all the chamber lye that went from the house, was thrown into it, together with the old pickle, &c. which was emptied from the meat barrels. As soon as the frost was out of the ground we dug our garden over and with an old pail drenched it with the liquid from the hhd. After standing a few days, it was raked down with a heavy rake made for the purpose and again saturated with the liquid from the hhd. That portion intended for beds, was in a day or two, slightly dug over again and prepared in the usual manner. Where we intended planting vines, we made the hills and used the liquid freely. We also used it in a diluted state for watering vegetables in dry weather through the summer. By recurring to our daily memorandum then kept, we find that our vegetables were all of a week earlier, after adopting this practice than they were in years before, although vegetation in general was later and the seasons were considered more backward. A friend, to whom we communicated these facts some years ago, has used it with similar success, not only on his garden, but on his asparagus bed, and thinks it valuable for that purpose.—*Maine Farmer.*

Improved Cross of Sheep.

Charles Vaughan, a distinguished breeder and farmer in Maine, has published in the Maine Farmer, letters highly extolling his improved breed of sheep, which are a cross of the South-Down with the Dishly, or new Leicester. The particular points of excellence are large size, hardiness, early maturity, and, we venture to add, from the known character of the South-Downs—excellence of mutton. Lambs of fifteen days old have weighed 20 lbs. and at five months have reached 65 lbs. upon ordinary keep. There is nothing unreasonable in the supposition, that the breeds of domestic animals can be improved here as well as they can be in Britain, provided we bestow upon this subject the same judgment and care that they do there. From what we haae seen of Mr. Vaughan's writings, and heard of his practice, we are disposed to believe that he possesses high qualifications as a breeder.—*Cultivator.*

Prices of Wool in England.

We have often heard it remarked, and we have concurred in the opinion, that our woollen manufacturers can afford to make a greater difference than they do make, in the prices they give for prime Saxon, and grade wool. The expense of manufacturing the two kinds differs but little, while the price of the fabric made from prime Saxon is generally double that made from grade wool. In the London price current for August, we notice the prices of wool were as follows: Electoral Saxony from 4s. 2d. to 5s.; first German wools 3s. 2d. to 4s.; Spanish Merino from 1s. to 3s. 2d.; native sheep's do. 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. There the prices of wool seem to correspond with the prices of the cloths into which they are converted—the Saxon being nearly double to the Spanish—here they do not correspond with the price of the cloths which they produce.—*Cultivator.*

Agricultural Exhibitions.

The agricultural journals which reach us abound in accounts of the cattle shows and agricultural fairs, which were generally held in October, from Maine to Kentucky. At the Kennebeck show, 3,000 persons are said to have been present, and 150 yoke of oxen, besides a corresponding number of other animals, were exhibited. Premiums were awarded upon a drill barrow and a root cutter, of recent invention, and upon apples, pears and other fruits.—In Scott county, 26 silver cups were awarded;—in Lincoln 28, and in Woodford 35, all in Kentucky—as agricultural premiums.

The Study of Agriculture,

Is recommended by a writer in the North American Review, in the following extract;

"Now, although the paramount importance of agricultural pursuits, over all others, is unquestioned, we suspect there is scarcely a school or college, in the country, where a single hour is devoted to the elucidation of their leading principles; and we doubt not, that many have finished their academical courses able, perhaps, to repeat whole volumes of metaphysics in the words of the author, while they have not merely acquired no knowledge, but have formed no conceptions of those familiar operations of the farmer and gardener, to which they are indebted for their daily food. Surely some few days of the ten years pupilage, through which so many of our youth pass, might be profitably given to subjects so interesting, as well as so important, as these."

FEEDING OF CATTLE—As the pastures are now very scant, farmers will find it to their interest to feed their stock, lightly, night and morning, so as to prevent their losing flesh, as it is much easier to *keep* a cow up to her condition, when in good order, than to arrest a downward course after it has commenced, or to get her up again when once reduced in flesh. As the pastures give way, the foddering should be moderately increased until the hard weather sets in, when the cattle receive the usual winter allowance; but whatever that may be, it would be better to dole it out three times than twice a day, as by thus dividing it, they will eat it with better appetite, and comparative speaking, but little provender will be thus lost.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

Self-Made Men.

You may take the whole population of Maryland, and select from it the fifty men who are the most distinguished for talents, or any description of public usefulness, and I will answer for it, they are all, every one of them, men who began the world without a dollar. Look into the public councils of the nation, and who are they that take the lead there? They are men who began with nothing. The rule is universal. It pervades our Courts, State and Federal, from the highest to the lowest. It is so now; it has been so at any time since I have known the public men of this state or the nation; and it will be so while our present institutions continue. You must throw a man upon his own resources to bring him out. The struggle which is to result in eminence is too arduous, and must be continued too long to be encountered and maintained voluntarily, or unless as a matter of life and death. He who has fortune to fall back upon will slack from his efforts, and finally retire from the competition. With me it is a question whether it is desirable that a parent should be able to leave his son any property at all. You will have a large fortune and I am sorry for it, as it will be the spoiling of a good lawyer. These are my deliberate sentiments, and I shall be rejoiced to find, in your instance, I shall have been mistaken.—*Clement Falconer.*

Rohan Potatoes.

THIS new and extraordinary variey of the potatoe, was introduced into this country from Switzerland two years ago.

The following are among the accounts which have been published respecting its wonderful qualities.

A writer in the Genesee Farmer says, one pound of seed planted in his garden, produced 136 lbs. 3 ozs.; and 45 lbs. planted on 24 rods of ground produced 58 bushels, being three times as many as the common kinds produced on the same space and quality of ground.

A gentleman in Connecticut, from 13 ozs. of seed produced 2½ bushels of potatoes, which weighed 144 pounds, while other varieties, with similar soil and cultivation, did not produce more than half an ordinary crop, owing to the extreme dry weather. It is stated that some of these tubers sold for $1 each, at the New Haven Horticultural Fair. Judge Buel (in the Cultivator) says we have cultivated them two seasons, and feel justified in recommending them as a valuable acquisition in our husbandry.

First—Because their quality for the table will justify it. If not superor they are good. The flesh is yellow, solid, and of good flavor.

Secondly—Because they admit of a great economy in seed; two eyes sufficing (and many of the tubers have 30 to 40 eyes) to plant a hill, and three or four bushels to plant an acre of ground.

Thirdly—Because they require comparatively little labor in harvesting, a man being able to dig thrice as many of them in a day as of ordinary kinds. The tubers are very large, 110 of the largest of our crop completely filling a flour barrel. 27 bushels were dug in our presence in one hour, (the tops being pulled,) by one man at moderate labor.

Fourthly—Because they yield an abundant crop—from 85 rods of ground were gathered 175 bushels, while our common kinds did not give us half a crop. One case has been stated to us, of a single potatoe producing a bushel, and another of its having produced a barrel, at harvest.

☞ They are for sale at the Rochester Seed Store, by
nov 17 REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Chinese Morus Multicaulis, &c.,

At the Linnæan Gardens, Flushing, New York.

50,000 SPLENDID trees of the genuine Morus multicaulis are yet remaining for sale at moderate prices, according to their size, and also cuttings of the same. None of the *humbug* kind are sold at this establishment. Also 20,000 trees of the Morus Expansa, which has very large leaves, greatly loved by the worms; it is very hardy, and yields silk of the first excellence. A great supply of the Moretti, or Alpine Mulberry, the Canton, Dandola, Broussa, Asiatic, Pyramidalis, Rose of Lombardy, Morus Alata, and other varieties. Also, Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Plants and Seeds of every kind, and an immense stock of Bulbous Flower Roots, just arrived from Holland.

Silk Worms' Eggs of every kind at the lowest prices, and White Italian, Canton and Moretti, or Alpine Mulberry Seeds in any quantity.

The Morus Multicaulis trees raised here have one-third more joints and buds than southern trees, and of course are worth 50 per cent. more for propagation; and the wood becomes as mature and perfect on the high exposed position our nurseries occupy, as at any place in the Union. Also, Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Bulbous Roots, Green House Plants, and Seeds of all kinds, for sale in large or small parcels.

Priced catalogues will be sent to every applicant, and orders per mail will be executed with as much precision and despatch as if the purchasers were present, and will be packed so as to be sent to the remotest region with safety.

nov 17-8t] WM. PRINCE & SON.

From the Wisconsin Culturist.

W. P. PROUDFIT, Esq., Editor W. Culturist—Dear Sir: We have perused a letter from Lucius B. Allen, Esq. accompanied by an editorial comment, which without proper explanation is calculated to mislead the public. It appears that Mr. Allen received seeds from Dr. Stebbins, of Northampton, Mass., which he deems the *Morus multicaulis*, and from which he states he has raised 30 to 40,000 trees. We have simply to say that there never has been one ounce of genuine Morus multicaulis seed sold in the Union, and that all the trees raised from seeds *professedly* of the Morus multicaulis, have proved to be none other than an improved variety of the White Mulberry, with much larger leaves than the White Mulberry, but possessing no resemblance to the genuine Morus multicaulis. All such applications of the term "Multicaulis," meaning *many stalks from one root*, are totally improper, and any such terms as Alpine Multicaulis, or Canton Multicaulis, are delusive. The Alpine is the Moretti Mulberry of France, and was originated there from seed, and is *not known in China*, and all efforts to import the genuine Multicaulis from China have as yet proved abortive, and there exists no proof whatever that it is to be found there, although in all probability it does, but at some locality not yet ascertained. The genuine Multicaulis was brought from the Philippine Islands to France, and was first imported into America by ourselves. It is time these errors should be put a stop to, as thousands of dollars have been already lost by persons cultivating and propagating the wrong tree. The seed from Dr. Stebbins no doubt produces valuable trees, but let them be called by their *true name*, and not by one totally distinct, and the use of which may mislead people at a distance, although here it cannot. In the whole village of Northampton there were not 50,000 trees of the genuine Morus multicaulis raised the present season, but they have there many other fine varieties in abundance [nov 17-8t] WM. PRINCE & SON.

Genuine Morus Multicaulis.

THE subscriber has still for sale, one thousand genuine Morus multicaulis, of thrifty growth and untrimmed. They are choice trees, selected for their size, and will afford a large quantity of cuttings. ASA ROWE.

Greece, October 27th, 1838.

Seeds for 1839.

WE are daily receiving our fall supply of SEEDS for the coming season and advices have just been received from London, of the shipment of a large invoice of *English seeds of the present years growth.* They will shortly be received, and we shall then be prepared to supply dealers and others by wholesale or retail, with such articles, and at such prices as cannot fail of giving the fullest satisfaction.

Orders from abroad where the articles are to be forwarded by navigation, should be sent as soon as possible. Those of our friends who have already favored us with their orders may rest assured that their wishes will receive due attention. REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Rochester Seed Store, October 27th, 1838.

Ram Lambs for Sale---Half Blooded. Goord's Improved Kents.

MR. Richard Goord, of Irvade, in Kent, England, having (as Bakewell and Ellman with the Leicesters and Southdowns,) spent a long life in endeavoring to form an improved breed from the Kents, has so far succeeded as to carry off all the prizes at the annual shows, where they have been placed in competition, and has been crowned with all the honors such success meets with in that country. These Sheep at twenty months old, weigh from 32 to 36 lbs. the quarter. There is no larger breed of sheep in England than the Kent. I brought out last year a choice Ram of the Improved Breed, probably the first and only one ever brought to this Continent, and have now some of his Ram Lambs for sale, at from seven to ten dollars each. S. W. SHOTTER.

Pittsford, Monroe Co. N. Y., Oct. 10, 1838.–w3t*

SAXONY SHEEP FOR SALE.

40 RAMS & 60 Ewes of the pure Electoral Saxon Race. The subscriber imported 100 yearling Ewes and a number of Rams in 1827 which were selected by himself from the purest race in Saxony, and with which he commenced his flock, and not only mantained them in all their purity of blood, but improved them in size, symmetry of form, and quantity and quality of wool. The above number of Ewes will either be sold or let for a term of years, and can be increased to 75 or 80 if desired.

H. D. GROVE,
Buskirks Bridge Post Office, Washington Co. N.Y.
August 25, 1838–3m*

A Farm for Sale.

THE subscriber, offers for sale a farm, containing one hundred and sixty-six acres of choice land. One hundred and twenty-five under improvement, and the most of it first rate grain land, situated at Hanover centre, in the county of Chautauque, two miles from Silver Creek Harbor, three from La Grange, four from Irving Harbor, and four from Farrestville.

There are upon the premises, two dwelling houses, one of them a large two story building, with commodious out buildings, orcharding, &c.

This farm is pleasantly situated, the soil of a superior quality, and is considered by competent judges, one of the most desirable farms in the county.

For terms, apply to David Seymour, on the premises, or to the subscriber at Lodi, Erie county.

JOSEPH PLUMB.

September 15th, 1838.–w8m2

Silk Business.

PERSONS who intend doing an extensive business next year with the Mulberries, can be supplied with the *true genuine Morus multicaulis* trees and cuttings, by sending in their orders early. Companies that wish to contract for large quantities, can be supplied on reasonable terms. The trees are to be well packed, so as to be sent to any part of the United States, and delivered this fall. The subscriber has been extensively engaged in the culture of silk for some years, particularly to the production of the Morus multicaulis; and will be hapyy to give any information respecting the tree or feeding the worm that may be required—silk, worm eggs, &c.

All letters will meet with immediate attention if assingned to EDWARD H. ARNOLD.

Burlington, New Jersey.

N. B. As orders are coming in now, it would be well for those in want to apply early. Aug. 1838.–3m*

Rohan Potatoes.

THE real article, just received at the Rochester Seed Store. REYNOLDS & BATEHAM

Rochester. Nov. 3d, 1838.

MULBERRY TREES.

200,000 GENUINE Mulberry Trees, and as many more as may be wanted, of the most approved kinds—consisting of the best selected varieties now in use for cultivation, feeding worms, and making silk; being acclimated to this country, and adapted to either warm or cold climates, affording a rare opportunity for Companies or individuals to be supplied, from the most extensive collection of Mulberry trees ever seen in any village within the United States.

Autumn is decidedly the best time for removal, and orders left with

Messrs. I. B. Colt, Sec'y of the Connecticut Silk Manufacturing Company, Hartford; Alonzo Wakeman, at the office of the American Institute, No. 187 Broadway, N. Y.; Thomas Lloyd, Jr. No. 236 Filbert street, Philadelphia, Pa.; Luther I. Cox, Baltimore, Md.; B. Snider & Co. Savannah, Ga; Bliss, Jenkins & Co. Mobile, Al.; James Lyman, St. Louis, Mo.; Case & Judd, Columbus. O.; G. Harwood, Rochester, N. Y.; and the publishers of this advertisement, or with the subscriber, in Northampton, Mass.

Orders left with the above gentlemen will be promptly attended to, and each will be furnished with samples of the foliage.

Several valuable farms may be had with or without Mulberry Plantations. Apply at the office of

D. STEBBINS.

Notrhampton, Sept. 1, 1838.–10t*

GOLD versus SILK!!

10,000 CUTTINGS of the genuine Morus Multicaulis trees for sale at a bargain.

These Cuttings are the same as were planted last spring, and produced the trees which are now selling at from 50 *cts.* to $1 each, by means of which many handsome fortunes have been realized. They are of sure growth, and owing to their great value for producing silk, they will doubtless be in good demand for several years. Price for the 10,000 $400,—$5 per 100.

N. B. A few fine trees still for sale. ☞ Speak quick or you miss'em. REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Rochester, Nov. 3d, 1838.

Chinese Morus Multicaulis, &c.

AT the Linnæan Gardens, Flushing, New-York—65,000 splendid Trees of the genuine Chinese Morus Multicaulis for sale at moderate prices; and also cuttings of the same. None of the *humbug* kind are cultivated at this establishment.

Also, a large supply of the Canton, Alpine or Moretti, Dandolo, Expansa, Broussa, Asiatic, and cuttings in any quantity. Priced catalogues will be sent to every applicant, but a *personal application* will be found far the most satisfactory, and purshasers can then see these superior Trees. Also, Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Plants, and Seeds of every kind, and an immense stock of Bulbous Flower roots, just arrived from Holland.

Applications can be made by mail, and priced catalogues will be sent to all who desire them.

WILLIAM PRINCE & SON.

October 20th, 1838.–6w

Fruit Trees for Sale.

THE subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has for sale at his Nursery in Rochester, Monroe county, state of New-York, a large quantity of Fruit Trees, grafted and inoculated with the most approved kinds, now fit for transplanting, which he will sell on the most reasonable terms. SAMUEL MOULSON.

April 15, 1838.

N. B. CASH will be paid for a few thousand two years old APPLE TREES.

Monroe Horticultural Garden & Nurseries, Greece, Monroe County, N. Y.

THIS establishment now comprises over 20 acres, covered compactly with Trees and Plants in the different stages of their growth.

The subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Grape Vines, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, Splendid Pæonies, Double Dahlias, &c. &c.

Also, a large collection of Green House Plants, of choice and select varieties, in good condition.

Orders respectfully solicited. Trees and Plants, when ordered, are carefully selected and faithfully packed, and if desired, delivered on the Canal, one mile from the Nursery, or at Rochester.

Orders for Mr. Rowe's Nursery received by the publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to every applicant, gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer.

April 1, 1839. ASA ROWE.